Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs **[0051]** and **[0052]** of the specification as follows:

[0051] FIG. 6 shows an example architecture 600 in which a partitioned application can execute. Architecture 600 includes a base component 508, whose function is to host the various environments in which partitions of an application will execute. Base component 508, as noted above, can take various forms, such as a VMM, an exokernel, a microkernel, a hypervisor, etc. Base component 508 has the functionality to host plural environments (e.g., operating systems), and also manages (and limits) the interaction between these environments. The hosting of plural environments can be performed using various techniques. For example, base component 50~~6~~8 may expose, to each of a plurality of operating systems, a self-contained "virtual machine"; the operating systems then control the virtual machine "virtual hardware," and the base component 50~~6~~8 issues instructions to the "real" hardware that are based on (but not necessarily identical to) the instructions that the operating systems have given to the virtual machines. (Generally speaking, this is how a traditional VMM works.) As another example, base component 50~~6~~8 may assign certain devices and certain segments of the machine's physical address space to the different operating systems, and may enforce the assignment by permitted each operating system to control only its assigned devices and its assigned portion of the address space. The invention is not limited to any particular embodiment of a base component; it is merely assumed, for the purpose of FIG. 6, that there is a base component that is capable of hosting plural environments so that these plural environments can co-exist on a single machine in some degree of isolation to one another.

[0052] In the example of FIG. 6, base component 50~~6~~8 hosts operating systems 602(1) through 602(4). Operating system 602(1) is an instance of the WINDOWS XP operating system, or another general-purpose operating system; operating system 602(2) is an instance of the Linux operating system; operating system 603(3) is a "nexus" – i.e., a high-assurance operating system (within the meaning described above), which may provide limited functionality but a high-assurance that this functionality will be carried out correctly; operating system 602(4) may be another general-purpose operating system, such as OS/2. In general, base component 508 can host an arbitrary number of operating systems (or other

types of environments), and the four operating systems shown in FIG. 6 are merely an example.